

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAA-01 MCE-00 SY-05
OPR-02 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 NEAE-00 /085 W
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCCW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PEKING IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC
CINCEUR

S E C R E T KABUL 6668

TAGS: PINS, PINR, AF
CINCPAC: FOR POLAD
CINCEUR: FOR POLAD

1. RADIO AFGHANISTAN ANNOUNCED THE EVENING OF AUGUST 17 THAT
DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL ABDUL QADER, CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF
GENERAL SHAHPOOR, AND DR. MIR ALI AKBAR (CHIEF OF JAMHURIAT HOSPITAL)
HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR ALLEGED IMPLICATION IN A PLOT AGAINST THE
REGIME. ADDITIONALLY, CHAIRMAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL
AND PRIME MINISTER NOOR MOHAMMAD TARAKI HAS BEEN NAMED MINISTER OF
DEFENSE AND WILL BE ASSISTED BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HAFIZULLAH AMIN

.
THESE DECISIONS WERE TAKEN ON AUGUST 17 BY THE POLITBURO, OF THE
PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN (PDPA) ACCORDING TO THE
RADIO AFGHANISTAN ANNOUNCEMENT.

2. COMMENT. GENERAL QADER HAS GENERALLY BEEN CONSIDERED AS MORE
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NATIONALISTIC THAN MOST OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THIS REGIME'S
LEADERSHIP, AND HE REPORTEDLY RESENTED AND RESISTED THE EXTENT OF
THE SOVIET INTRUSION INTO THE AFGHAN MILITARY. OUR INITIAL
ANALYSIS OF THESE EVENTS SUGGESTS THAT THE REGIME'S MOVE AGAINST HIM
REPRESESTS A CALCULATED GAMBLE THAT TARAKI AND HIS SUPPORTERS
CAN WITHSTAND WHATEVER CHALLENGE THE RANK AND FILE MILITARY MAY
MOUNT IN RESPONSE TO THE SACKING OF A KEY MILITARY LEADER OF THE

APRIL REVOLUTION (QADER DELIVERED THE AIR FORCE IN THE OVERTHROW OF FORMER PRESIDENT DAOUD).

3. THESE MILITARY LEADERS MAY, IN FACT, HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN AN ANTI-REGIME PLOT WHICH THE REGIME MAY HAVE PERCEIVED AS A GENUINE AND SERIOUS THREAT. OTHER MEMBERS OF SUCH A GROUP MAY DECIDE TO MAKE THEIR MOVE SOON, BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, WITHOUT LEADERSHIP THEY MAY DECIDE THAT THE EFFORT WOULD BE USELESS.

4. FOR SEVERAL DAYS THE RUMOR HAS BEEN MAKING THE ROUNDS THAT TARAKI MADE A BRIEF TRIP TO MOSCOW SOMETIME BETWEEN AUGUST 10 AND 14 IN ORDER TO CONSULT THE SOVIETS ON INTERNAL SECURITY MATTERS. THIS THESIS IS ONE THAT HAS BEEN REPEATED TO US BY OUR CHINESE COLLEAGUES HERE, WHO HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY BELIEVE IT. IF IT IS CONFIRMED THAT TARAKI DID TRAVEL TO MOSCOW IT MUST SURELY HAVE BEEN TO CONSULT ON THE REMOVAL OF QADER.

5. THROUGHOUT TODAY (AUGUST 17) THE MILITARY FORCES IN KABUL HAVE APPEARED TO BE ON A SLIGHTLY HIGHER STATE OF ALERT, BUT AT THE MOMENT THE CITY REMAINS QUIET AND WE HAVE NOT YET HEARD ANY EVIDENCE OF ANY VIOLENCE. HOWEVER, TANKS AT RADIO AFGHANISTAN NEAR THE EMBASSY ARE REPORTELY OCCUPIED BY CREWS AS OF 10 P.M.

SIGCEN NOTE: MCN'S WILL BE FURNISHED NEXT OOB.

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NNN

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